

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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P R 221657Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8039

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: COMMEMORATION OF FRANCO'S DEATH CARRIED OUT WITHOUT
SERIOUS INCIDENT

REF: MADRID 8811

1. WHILE AUTHORITIES AND OTHER NOTABLES HEADED BY THE KING
AND QUEEN ATTENDED A MEMORIAL MASS FOR FRANCO AT THE VALLEY
OF THE FALLEN, A CROWD ESTIMATED VERY GENEROUSLY AS HIGH AS
150,000 GATHERED AT THE ROYAL PALACE IN DOWNTOWN MADRID NOVEMBER
20 FOR THE COMMEMORATION OF THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF HIS
DEATH ORGANIZED BY THE NATIONAL VETERANS' ORGANIZATION. THE
CROWD WAVED FLAGS AND HANDKERCHIEFS AND SHOUTED SLOGANS IN HOMAGE
TO FRANCO. A FEW GROUPS IN THE CROWD ALSO SHOUTED AGAINST THE
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GOVT, THE KING, THE CORTES, AND ESPECIALLY THE PRESS, BUT

THE CROWD FELL SILENT FOR THE 25-MINUTE CEREMONY.

2. AFTERWARDS, THE SHOUTING (AND THE EPITHETS TO THE PRESS, WHO RECEIVED UNUSUAL POLICE PROTECTION) RESUMED, AND A FEW, MOSTLY SMALL, GROUPS PROCEEDED TO OTHER PARTS OF THE CITY, INCLUDING THE CORTES AND THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, DEMONSTRATING FOR A SHORT TIME BEFORE BEING DEISPERSED BY POLICE AT THE LAST LOCATION. NO SERIOUS INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED, ALTHOUGH TRAFFIC WAS DISRUPTED AND ONE PHOTOGRAPHER WAS INJURED BY A BLOW ON THE HEAD.

3. THE LIBERAL-LEFT EL PAIS, WHICH GAVE THE EVENT EXTENDED, ACCURATE COVERAGE (AS CONFIRMED BY OUR OWN OBSERVATIONS) RAN AN EDITORIAL THE FOLLOWING DAY NOTING THAT ALTHOUGH THE OCCASION HAD BEEN TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF BY "NEO-NAZI GROUPS" AND "BANDS OF BULLIES" TO "SOW CONFUSION", IT HAD BEEN ESSENTIALLY PEACEFUL, CONTROLLED BY ITS ORGANIZERS. ASSERTING THAT THE LIE HAD THUS BEEN PUT TO THOSE WHO WARNED OF THE DANGERS OF PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, EL PAIS SAID GROUPS OF OTHER POLITICAL PERSUASION, IN THE CENTER AND ON THE LEFT, SHOUD HAVE SIMILAR OPPORTUNITIES. FORCITS PART, THE MONARCHIST ABC HAILED THE THREE "LESSONS IN CONCORD" RE-PRESENTED BY THE NOVEMBER 20 COMMEMORATION, THE LARGELY PEACEFUL NOVEMBER 12 "DAY OF STRUGGLE," AND THE CORTES VOTE. STABLER

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